AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of treating strongly acid wastewater containing toxic substances, comprising:

the step of adding hydroxyapatite to the wastewater to precipitate its toxic substances as solid constituents (hereinafter referred to as "absorbing and precipitating step");

the step of adding an alkaline substance to the wastewater to neutralize it (hereinafter referred to as "neutralizing step");

the step of adding a coagulant to the wastewater to coagulate the precipitated solid constituents (hereinafter referred to as "coagulating step"); and

the step of removing the coagulated solid constituents from the wastewater (hereinafter referred 10 to as "removing step").

2. (Original) A method of treating strongly acid wastewater containing toxic substances, comprising:

the step of adding an alkaline substance to the wastewater to neutralize it and precipitate its toxic substances as solid constituents;

the step of adding a coagulant to the wastewater to coagulate the precipitated solid constituents; 15

the step of removing the coagulated solid constituents from the wastewater;

the step of adding an acid substance to the wastewater to acidify it;

the step of adding hydroxyapatite to the wastewater to precipitate its toxic substances as solid constituents (hereinafter referred to as "absorbing and precipitating step");

the step of adding an alkaline substance to the wastewater to neutralize it (hereinafter referred to 20 as "neutralizing step");

the step of adding a coagulant to the wastewater to coagulate the precipitated solid constituents (hereinafter referred to as "coagulating step"); and

the step of removing the coagulated solid constituents from the wastewater (hereinafter referred to as "removing step").

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an absorbing and coagulating agent, as well as the hydroxyapatite, is added to the wastewater in the absorbing and precipitating step.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an absorbing and coagulating agent is added to the wastewater after the addition of the hydroxyapatite to the wastewater in the absorbing and precipitating step.

5. (Original) The method according to ~~claim 1, 2, 3, or 4~~ claims 1 or 2, wherein the absorbing and precipitating step, the neutralizing step, the coagulating step, the removing step, and the step of turning the treated wastewater into a wastewater of strong acidity are carried out repeatedly.

6. (Original) The method according to ~~claim 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5~~ claims 1 or 2, wherein the weak acidity of the wastewater after the neutralizing step is changed to alkalinity before the removing step is carried out.